

## **GOAL: Responsible Production and Consumption of Resources**

Managing waste through responsible consumption and production of resources means minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials, as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of a service or product, so as to not jeopardize the needs of future generations.

Although waste and consumption are a seemingly small part of Erie County's GHG inventory, they contribute to far-reaching environmental impacts felt by our community. In particular, disadvantaged communities disproportionately experience the detrimental effects of rampant consumption and waste. For example, the siting of waste facilities has historically been in low-income communities.

The Erie County government does not own or operate any active landfills, and most of our waste is transported to other areas where GHG emissions are measured, however, waste management facilities, such as transfer stations exist within the County borders. Additionally, many of the products and resources that we consume come from national and even global sources, further adding significantly to our "hidden" GHG impact surrounding waste and consumption. While the majority of GHG emissions that result from consumption and waste within our county are not accounted for in our GHG inventory, this does not alleviate our responsibilities as policy-makers or consumers. Erie County's current efforts include outreach and education with municipalities and commercial entities, but significantly more work is needed to reach greater reduction and diversion goals.

With this plan, Erie County has a tremendous opportunity to reduce our waste, our consumption of resources, and our GHG emissions by means of responsible production and consumption of resources. With an equity-driven, inclusive approach, and through our overriding strategies of Reduction, Diversion and Reuse/Repair, we will positively impact the environment of individuals, neighborhoods, businesses, our great County, as well as our global community.